

A SHORT

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NARRATIVE

Of the Discovery of a

Colledge of Jesuits,

At a Place called the

COMME.

In the County of HEREFORD:

Which was sent up unto the Right Honourable

The LORDS assembled in PARLIAMENT,
at the End of the last Sessions, by the Right Reverend Father in God,
HERBERT, Lord Bishop of *Hereford*, according to an Order sent
unto him by the said Lords, to make diligent Search, and return an
Account thereof.

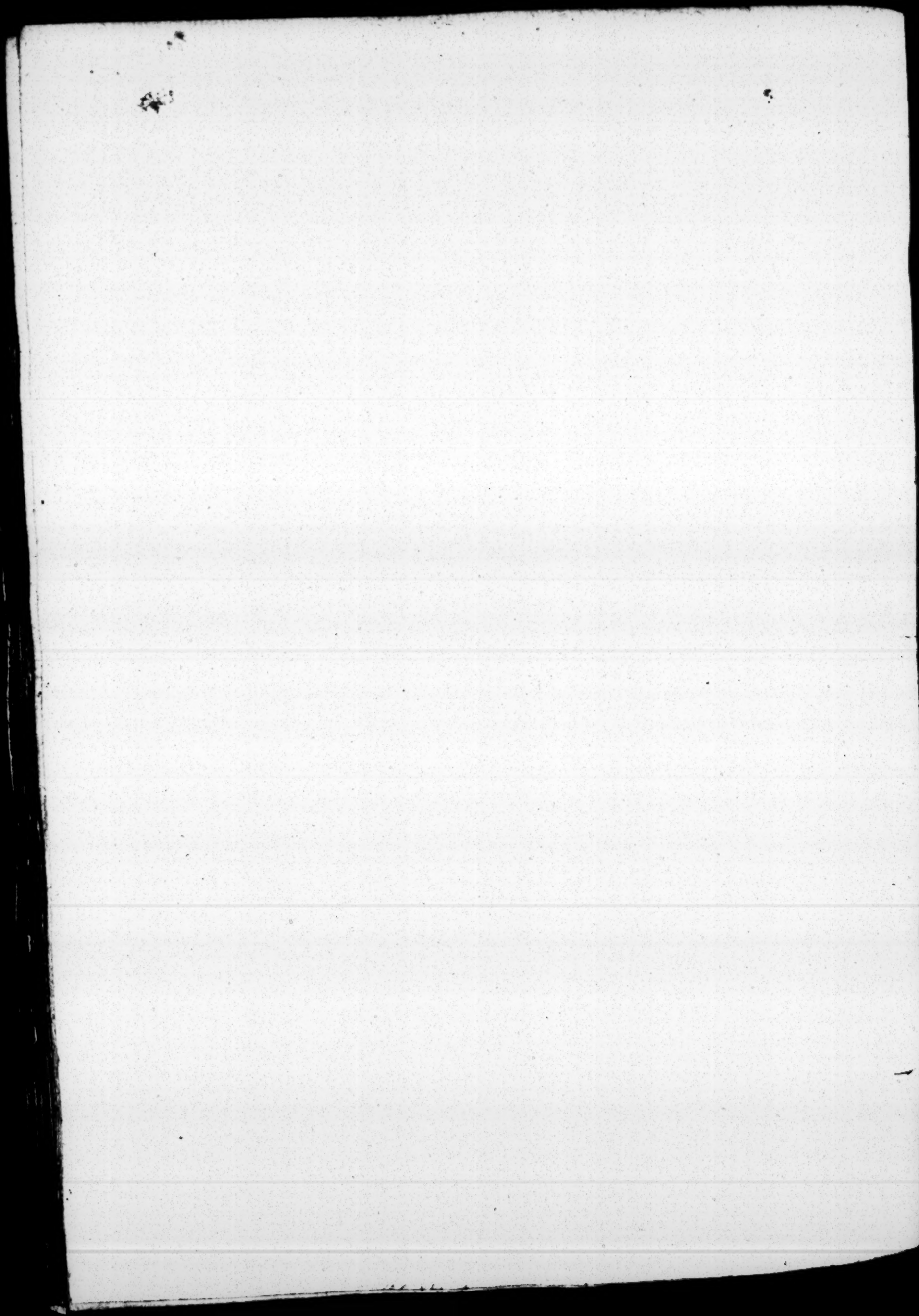
To which is added a True Relation of the Knavery of

Father LEVVIS,

The Pretended Bishop of LANDAFFE;

Now a Prisoner in *Monmouth* Goal.

Reprinted at *Dublin*, M. DC. LXXIX.



A short Narrative of the Discovery of a Colledge of Jesu- its, at a place called *The Come*, in the County of *Hereford*. Together with an Account of the Knavery of *Father Lewis*, the pretended *Bishop of Landaffe*, &c.



IN the Parish of *Llanrothall* in the County of *Hereford*, there are two Houses, called, *The Upper and Lower Comes*, or *Middle and Lower Comes*, with a walled Court before each of them, having Lands belonging to them worth about Threescore pounds per *Annum* (they pay Taxes at Eight and fifty pounds per *Annum*.)

See the Examinations of Mr. Boothby, Lord of the Mannor.

This Estate did formerly belong to *Edward Lord Marquis of Worcester*, who by his Lease dated *Novemb. 10.* in the Twelfth year of *King Charles the I.* did Lett it for Fourscore and nineteen years, to one *William Merton*, who dying, left it to one *Robert Hutton* living in *St. Giles's in the Fields*, London, stiled Merchant; which *Hutton* hath by his Lease, dated the second day of *February 1677.* and sealed and delivered in the presence of *William Ireland*, *John Fenwick*, *J. Groves*, let the lower *Come* to one *William Williams*, for One and twenty years; at Forty pounds per *Annum*: And he hath likewise made a Letter of Attorney to one *Peter Pullen* a servant, intrusting him with the management of the profits of both the *Comes*, which is dated the 27th day of *April 1678* & the Witnesses to it are *W. Ireland*, *Jo. Fenwick*, and *William Cornelius*.

One of these Houses is a fair gentile House, wherein there are six lodging Chambers; each one a convenient Study to it, with a Standish left in them, besides several other Lodging Rooms.

The other House is also a good Countrey House, with several Chambers, and Studies to some of them, all in very good repair: But the Furniture now removed, we cannot yet find whither.

The remaining Dwellers in the House, who were but Under-servants, will not confess: They are apparently perjured; For they flatly denied, upon Oath, several things which were made out by others, and then they confessed them.

There are One and twenty Chimnies in both Houses, and a great many doors to go in and out at; and likewise many private passages from one Room to the other.

These Houses are seated at the bottom of a thick woody and rocky Hill, with several hollow places in the Rocks, wherein Men may conceal themselves; and there is a very private passage from one of the Houses, into this Wood.

In one of these Houses there was a Study found, the Door thereof very hardly to be discovered, being placed behind a Bed, and plaistred over like the Wall adjoining, in which was found great store of Divinity Books, and others, in Folio and Quarto, and many other lesser Books several Horse-loads, (but they are not yet brought to me, it being *Christmas Holy-days*, but they remain in a safe hand) many whereof are written by the principal learned Jesuits.

And there were found two Paper Books in Folio, in the Front of one written.

Ordinationes varie pro Collegio Sancti Xaverii

(Xaverius was the Co-founder with Ignatius of the Jesuits Order, and his Picture was there set up.)

Ordinationes, doth not here signifie *Ordination*, as we commonly understand it; but Orders and Rules sent from the Generals of the Jesuits *Caraffa* and *Paulus Oliva*, to the Jesuits here inhabiting; as also Instructions from the Provincials of the Jesuits living in *London*, unto those here.

The other paper book contains the great Benefactors, being Queens, Princes, Nobles, and several others of this and divers other nations, who have contributed towards the foundation of Jesuit Colledges, or the Maintenance of them; and likewise the number of Masses appointed to be said for their Souls.

There was also found a Latin Book in Folio, declaring, *That there is in London a Colledge dedicated to St Ignatius, with Revenues belonging to it, for the Jesuit Novices in the time of Probation.*

One in Wales (which I suppose are these two Houses) dedicated to St. Xaverius.

A third is (The book saith) in Staffordshire or Lancashire dedicated to St. Aloysius, another prime Jesuit: which Colledges, when England shall be reduced to the Obedience of the Pope, shall never be altered, As this book directs. This printed Book, and the other two paper books in Folio, I have.

There are about 15 or 16 several printed books, containing the decrees of the several Congregations of that Society at *Rome*, that contain onely the Rules of the Society of Jesus.

There are several Books lately written and printed against the Protestant Religion; and many small Popish Catechisms printed and tyed up in a bundle; and some Welsh Popish books lately printed, and some Popish Manuscripts fairly and lately written.

Likewise there is a picture of *Ignatius Loyola*, the Founder of the Society, and the most remarkable Actions and pretended Miracles of his Life, not only written in printed books, but in pictures in several sheets, which pictures refer to *Ribadeneira's* book of *Loyola's* Life.

There is a loose paper dated the First day of *March* 1652. (it seems this was then founded a Colledge) in which directions were given, that an Account of the Revenue & disbursements should be sent yearly to the Colledge in *Rome*; It is there also mentioned, that the same year there were baptized 34; reconciled to the Church of *Rome* 155 (a great number;) of those that were fallen from the Church and regained 15, and other matters.

One Letter seems written by the Provincial to them of this House, wherein complaint made, *That there was not Care enough taken to send Young men to Rome to be there bred up in the English Colledge; and for which, he saith, the Pope was much displeased, and threatened to take away their Colledge there, and fill it up with Scholars of some other Nation and order.*

In one of these Houses lived a mean Servant, called *Peter Pullen*, (a papist) yet entrusted with the managment of these Houses and Estates for Eight years past, as he confesseth; and was entrusted to receive a Rent of 30*l.* per Annum, from an E-

See *Peter Pullen's*
Examination.

ate called *Amberley* in the Parish of *Monmouth*, and another Rent of 18l. per *Annum*,
 an Estate called *Langunhill* in the Parish of *Dixton* in the County of *Monmouth*, and to
 manage them also: part whereof defrayed the Expences of the *Colledge*, as appears in part
 an Account Book, where there are many Leaves cut out, (I suppose they had timely No-
 tice given them, before the order was sent me by the House of Lords, and did thereupon do this,
 remove what they could before hand) and part paid in money to such *Jesuits Priests* as
 were appointed to receive it: but for those Eight years that he hath been Servant there, he
 hath made any account unto, nor held any Correspondence with the said
 Master, who carrieth the name of this Estate.

This *Pullen* names seven several *Jesuits Priests*, viz. *Prichard, Archer, Harris, Lewis, Price,*
Jeffreys, and Draicot, who were used to resort thither, and say Mass there: but the Altar
 with all the Ornaments thereof, was taken down, and conveyed away, only the
 Stone remaining with five Crosses cut in it, one at each corner, & one in the middle.
 Two Vestments, with some other small matters, were found in two Boxes hid in the
 wall above-specified (it seems the other things were but newly removed; and they had begun
 to remove the library, for they had carried out and hid in a Pigs-Cot adjoining, about two
 loads of Books.)

There were found many Bottles of Oyl, a Box of White wafers stamped, several Po-
 pish Pictures and Crucifixes, some Reliques, a little Saints Bell, and an Incense pot.

It doth appear by several Examinations, that on Sundayes and Holydayes many Papists did re-
 sort thither, and the greater part of Mr. Milburnes Family near unto them, but I do
 not think that ever he himself frequented it.

Relation of the Knavery of Father LEWIS, the pretended Bishop of LANDAFFE.

Among other things which fell out in the Examination of the *Jesuits*
Colledge at Come in *Herefordshire*, there is fully proved by se-
 veral Witnesses, this true Story following; which being matter of
 Fact, cannot be denied.

Here is amongst the Foxes of this Kennel one *Lewis*, one of the established number
 of *Jesuits* of the *Colledge* who is reported to be the Titular Bishop of *Landaffe*,
 who is now prisoner in *Monmouth*.

There was a poor Woman, to whom this *Lewis* was a Confessor; her Father was
 a pious liver, and dyed about half a year agoe.

This poor Woman having been taught the Doctrine of Purgatory, and being (it seems)
 of a very tender nature, and reflecting upon the condition of her Fathers Soul, which
 she apprehended, by their Doctrine, was in great torment in Purgatory: She thereup-
 on fell into a great grief and sorrow; and, with tears in her eyes addrest her self to
 Father *Lewis*, and told him, She was informed, that he could use means to fetch her
 Fathers Soul immediately out of Purgatory into Heaven; and that she would give him all she had
 in the world to have it done with speed, though she did not leave her self one penny to live on.

To this Father Lewis after a long pause, told her thus: Daughter, I am glad to see so much grace in you, as to believe the holy Doctrine of Purgatory, so firmly as to be so sensible of the Torture of your Fathers Soul therein: True it is, I can (with the assistance of our most Holy Father the Pope) bring your Fathers Souls out of purgatory into Heaven; it will cost a great deal of money: For I must send over to Rome, to have power therein, and several Masses must be celebrated both in Rome, and all other Colledges of Jesuits, and Offices performed to do the work; which, Father Lewis said, would cost a great deal of money.

The poor Woman answer'd, She did not care what it cost her; so dear so precious was her Fathers Soul to her, that she would give all she had to have it done?

And then she ask'd him How much it would cost to have it done?

Who after a pause, and reckoning upon his fingers-ends, told her, It would cost Hundred pound to have it well done.

With that the Woman cry'd bitterly, and said, She was not worth half so much money in the world.

Then Father Lewis told her, He would do it for Four score pounds.

The woman reply'd She was not worth half Four score.

Then Father Lewis ask'd her, What she was worth in the whole world?

To which she answer'd very honestly and truly, That she was worth, but thirty five pound.

Then Father Lewis told her, Because she was poor, that he would take but thirty pound. And thereupon they agreed.

But when Father Lewis understood after from the woman, that she had no ready money, he began to storm, and to be in a great passion; yet at last he was contented to take his own Bond for the Thirty pound; but took the Bond in a Friends name, and caus'd the Woman to give a warrant to an Attorney to confess Judgment upon the Bond, which was done accordingly; and the money was to be paid within six Weeks, within which Father Lewis undertook peremptorily to have the Man's Soul out of Purgatory into Heaven, and so they parted, and the woman hereby much comforted.

Afterwards, as soon as ever the six Weeks were over and the money became due, Father Lewis sent to the poor Woman, to come to him again, and as soon as ever she came, he produc'd unto her a Book with gilded Leaves, and red Letters, and after he had turn'd the Leaves of the book backward and forward; he clapt the book to his ear, and then thus, looking into the book.

Here it is, I am sure now your business is done; this I tell you to your comfort that your Fathers Soul is as surely in Heaven at this very time, as I am here in this Chair.

And then after a little time that the woman had express'd her joy at these good tydings, Father Lewis ask'd her whether she had brought him his money, the Thirty pound she was engaged for?

She answer'd, She had not brought him all because her money was out in other mens hands and could not get it in so soon; but she had brought him ten pound, and humbly intreated he would receive that at present, and he should have the residue as soon as possibly she could get it in.

But at this Father Lewis was startled, that she had not brought the whole sum, and was into a violent fury with the poor woman; reviled her, gave her many harsh and bitter words, threaten'd the poor woman to send Bayliffs to take her in Execution upon the Judgment, and cast her Body into Prison; and not only so, but threaten'd to Excommunicate her.

ate her also, for the breach of her faith, in not paying the Thirty pound, according to her engagement.

But, upon second thoughts, Father Lewis took the Ten pound, and he came to this farther agreement with her, which was, that she should pay five pound more forthwith and the other fifteen pound within a quarter of a year after; and if she failed, then to render her self to prison, and suffer Excommunication.

After this, the poor Woman made hard shift to pay Father Lewis the Five pound, but before the other Fifteen was due, a man of the Protestant Religion, solicited the poor Woman for Marriage. The poor woman ingenuously and conscientiously confess'd unto him *That she was worth nothing, but was in debt to her Ghostly Father Lewis Fifteen pound;* And acquainted him how, and for what she came to be so indebted. This man, notwithstanding, marries her, and afterwards by degrees, drew her from the Roman Church, to the Church of England; and then brought her before a Justice of Peace, to whom she discover'd all this upon Oath.

And this Woman knowing where her holy Confessor Lewis us'd to hide himself, under Ground, under a clay Floor, cunningly contrived in a poor despicable Cottage; and being now exasperated at the Holy Cheat, and desirous, as is most just, to catch his person, she would have catched hers; and endeavouring to have satisfaction from him for the money he (with so much uncharitableness) cheated her of, did conduct a Justice of Peace to the place, where they found and unkenneled the Fox, and from thence the Justice of Peace sent Father Lewis to Monmouth Gaol, where he now continues.

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